

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A container assembly comprising:
an outer tube having a closed bottom, an open top and a side wall extending therebetween, said side wall defining an inner surface and an outer surface;
an inner tube disposed within the outer tube, said inner tube having a closed bottom, an open top and a side wall having an inner surface and an outer surface extending therebetween; and
a venting pathway extending between the inner surface of the outer tube and the outer surface of the inner tube, said venting pathway comprising a combination of a textured surface area and a longitudinal groove for allowing air to vent to atmospheric pressure during insertion of the inner tube within the outer tube and wherein the textured surface area has a bottom boundary and at least a portion of the longitudinal groove extends below the bottom boundary of the textured area.
2. (Original) The container assembly of claim 1, wherein the venting pathway is integrally formed with at least one of the inner tube and the outer tube.
3. (Original) The container assembly of claim 1, wherein the longitudinal groove and the textured surface area are located on the outer surface of the inner tube.
4. (Original) The container assembly of claim 1, wherein the longitudinal groove extends from adjacent the bottom of the inner tube towards the open top of the inner tube to a location adjacent the textured surface area.

5. (Original) The container assembly of claim 1, wherein the textured surface area is adjacent the open top of the inner tube.

6. (Original) The container assembly of claim 1, wherein the textured surface area is located on the outer surface of the inner tube.

7. (Original) The container assembly of claim 6, wherein the textured surface area further includes protrusions having a radial dimension equal to at least a diameter of the inner surface of the outer tube for fitting of the inner tube within the outer tube.

8. (Original) The container assembly of claim 6, wherein the longitudinal groove is located on the inner surface of the outer tube.

9. (Original) The container assembly of claim 1, wherein the textured surface area is located on the inner surface of the outer tube and the longitudinal groove is located on the outer surface of the inner tube.

10. (Original) The container assembly of claim 1, wherein the textured surface area and the longitudinal groove are located on the inner surface of the outer tube.

11. (Original) The container assembly of claim 1, wherein the venting pathway further comprises a second longitudinal groove.

12. (Original) The container assembly of claim 11, wherein the second longitudinal groove is in fluid communication with the longitudinal groove through the textured surface area.

13. (Original) The container assembly of claim 1, wherein the textured surface area has a surface finish of about 1.6-12.5 microns.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of assembling a container comprising an inner tube contained within an outer tube, said method comprising:

providing an outer tube and an inner tube, both of said outer tube and said inner tube including a closed bottom, an open top and a side wall defining an inner surface and an outer surface extending therebetween;

inserting the inner tube within the outer tube; and

venting air between the outer tube and the inner tube to atmospheric pressure during insertion of the inner tube within the outer tube through a venting pathway extending between the inner surface of the outer tube and the outer surface of the inner tube, said venting pathway comprising a combination of a textured surface area and a longitudinal groove and wherein the textured surface area has a bottom boundary and at least a portion of the longitudinal groove extends below the bottom boundary of the textured area.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the step of venting air further comprises venting air through the open top of the outer tube.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the venting pathway is integrally formed with at least one of the inner tube and the outer tube.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the longitudinal groove and the textured surface area are located on the outer surface of the inner tube.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein the textured surface area further includes protrusions having a radial dimension equal to at least a diameter of the inner surface of the outer tube for engagement of the inner tube within the outer tube.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein the longitudinal groove extends from adjacent the bottom of the inner tube towards the open end of the inner tube to a location adjacent the textured surface area.

20. (Original) A container assembly comprising:

an outer tube having a closed bottom, an open top and a side wall extending therebetween, said side wall defining an inner surface and an outer surface, said inner surface having a first longitudinal groove;

an inner tube contained within the outer tube, said inner tube having a closed bottom, an open top and a side wall having an inner surface and an outer surface extending therebetween, the outer surface of the inner tube having a second longitudinal groove; and

wherein the first longitudinal groove and the second longitudinal groove are in alignment during insertion of the inner tube within the outer tube to permit air to vent from between the outer tube and the inner tube to atmospheric pressure through a venting pathway extending to the open top of the outer tube.

21. (Original) The container assembly of claim 20, wherein the first longitudinal groove extends from the bottom of the outer tube towards the open top of the outer tube and the second longitudinal groove extends from the open top of the inner tube towards the bottom of the inner tube, whereby at least a top portion of the first longitudinal groove is in contact with at least a bottom portion of the second longitudinal groove.

22. (Original) The container assembly of claim 21, wherein the top portion of the first longitudinal groove sealingly engages with the bottom portion of the second longitudinal groove.

23. (Original) The container assembly of claim 22, wherein the top portion of the first longitudinal groove longitudinally overlaps with the bottom portion of the second longitudinal groove.

24. (Original) The container assembly of claim 20, wherein the first longitudinal groove extends from the open top of the outer tube towards the bottom of the outer tube and the second longitudinal groove extends from the bottom of the inner tube towards the

open top of the inner tube, whereby at least a bottom portion of the first longitudinal groove is in contact with at least a top portion of the second longitudinal groove.

25. (Original) The container assembly of claim 24, wherein the bottom portion of the first longitudinal groove sealingly engages with the top portion of the second longitudinal groove.

26. (Original) The container assembly of claim 25, wherein the bottom portion of the first longitudinal groove longitudinally overlaps the top portion of the second longitudinal groove.

27. (Original) The container assembly of claim 20, wherein at least one of the outer tube or the inner tube further comprises a textured surface area in engagement with the first longitudinal groove and the second longitudinal groove thereof.

28. (Original) A method of assembling a container comprising an inner tube contained within an outer tube, the method comprising:

providing an outer tube having a closed bottom, an open top and a side wall extending therebetween, said side wall defining an inner surface and an outer surface, said inner surface having a first longitudinal groove;

providing an inner tube within the outer tube, said inner tube having a closed bottom, an open top and a side wall having an inner surface and an outer surface extending therebetween, the outer surface of the inner tube having a second longitudinal groove; and

establishing a venting pathway during insertion of the inner tube within the open top of the outer tube through alignment of said first longitudinal groove and said second longitudinal groove, at least one of said first longitudinal groove and said second longitudinal groove extending to the open top of the respective tube to vent air from between the outer tube and the inner tube to atmospheric pressure.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the first longitudinal groove extends from the bottom of the outer tube towards the open top of the outer tube and the second longitudinal groove extends from the open top of the inner tube towards the bottom of the inner tube and wherein the establishing step comprises inserting the inner tube within the outer tube with the second longitudinal groove in alignment with the first longitudinal groove.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the top portion of the first longitudinal groove sealingly engages with the bottom portion of the second longitudinal groove when the inner tube is fully inserted within the outer tube.

31. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the first longitudinal groove extends from the open top of the outer tube towards the bottom of the outer tube and the second longitudinal groove extends from the bottom of the inner tube towards the open top of the inner tube and wherein the establishing step comprises inserting the inner tube within the outer tube with the first longitudinal groove in alignment with the second longitudinal groove.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the bottom portion of the first longitudinal groove sealingly engages with the top portion of the second longitudinal groove when the inner tube is fully inserted within the outer tube.

33. (Currently Amended) A container assembly comprising:
an outer tube having a closed bottom, an open top and a side wall extending therebetween, said side wall defining an inner surface and an outer surface;
an inner tube contained within the outer tube, said inner tube having a closed bottom, an open top and a side wall having an inner surface and an outer surface extending therebetween; and
wherein at least one of the outer tube or the inner tube further comprises a first longitudinal groove and a second longitudinal groove, said first longitudinal groove and said second longitudinal groove in fluid communication through a textured surface area extending therebetween during insertion of the inner tube within the outer tube to permit air to vent from

between the outer tube and the inner tube to atmospheric pressure through a venting pathway extending to the open top of the outer tube and wherein the textured surface area includes a boundary and a portion of at least one of said first longitudinal groove and said second longitudinal groove extends beyond said boundary of said textured surface area.

34. (Original) The container assembly of claim 33, wherein the textured surface area is located circumferentially between the first longitudinal groove and the second longitudinal groove.

35. (Original) The container assembly of claim 33, wherein the first longitudinal groove and the second longitudinal groove are located on the outer surface of the inner tube.

36. (Original) The container assembly of claim 35, wherein the textured surface area is located on the outer surface of the inner tube extending between the first longitudinal groove and the second longitudinal groove.

37. (Original) The container assembly of claim 35, wherein the textured surface area is located on the inner surface of the outer tube extending between the first longitudinal groove and the second longitudinal groove.

38. (Original) The container assembly of claim 33, wherein the first longitudinal groove and the second longitudinal groove are located on the inner surface of the outer tube.

39. (Original) The container assembly of claim 38, wherein the textured surface area is located on the outer surface of the inner tube extending between the first longitudinal groove and the second longitudinal groove.

40. (Original) The container assembly of claim 38, wherein the textured surface area is located on the inner surface of the outer tube extending between the first longitudinal groove and the second longitudinal groove.